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Crypto meltdown is wake-up call for many, including Congress

By K. SWEET/F. HUSSEIN **The Associated Press** NEW YORK (AP) — Meltdowns in the cryptocurrency space are common, but the latest one really touched some nerves. Novice investors took to online forums to share tales of decimated fortunes and even suicidal despair. Experienced crypto supporters, including one prominent billionaire, were left feeling humbled. When the stablecoin TerraUSD imploded last month, an estimated \$40 billion in investor funds was erased and so far there has been little or no accountability.



Ranking member Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., speaks during a Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee hearing, Tuesday, May 10, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

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Crypto meltdown is wake-up call for many, including Congress

Continued from Front

Stablecoins are supposed to be less vulnerable to big swings — thus the name — but Terra suffered a spectacular collapse in a matter of days.

The Terra episode publicly exposed a truth long-known in the always-online crypto community: for every digital currency with staying power, like bitcoin, there have been hundreds of failed or worthless currencies in crypto's short history. So Terra became just the latest "sh—coin" — the term used by the community to describe coins that faded into obscurity.

Terra's quick collapse came just as bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency, was in the midst of a decline that has wiped out nearly half of its value in a couple of months. The events have served as a vivid reminder that investors, both professionals and the mom and pop variety, can be rolling the dice when it comes to putting money into digital assets.

After being mostly handsoff toward crypto, it appears that Washington has
had enough. On Tuesday,
two senators — one Democrat and one Republican
— proposed legislation
that seeks to build a regulatory framework around
the cryptocurrency industry; other members of Congress are considering more
limited legislation.

What's surprising, however, is that the cryptocurrency industry is signaling its cooperation. Politicians, crypto enthusiasts, and industry lobbyists all point to last month's collapse of Terra and its token Luna as the possible end of the libertarian experiment in crypto.

Stablecoins are typically pegged to a traditional financial instrument, like the U.S. dollar, and are supposed to the cryptocurrency equivalent of investing in a conservative money market fund. But Terra was not backed by any hard assets. Instead, its founder Do Kwon promised that Terra's proprietary algorithm would keep the coin's



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., speaks during a news conference May 5, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

value pegged to roughly \$1.00. Critics of Terra would be attacked on social media by Kwon and his socalled army of "LUNAtics" Kwon's promise turned out to be worthless. A massive selling event caused Terra to "break the buck" and collapse in value. Reddit boards dedicated to Terra and Luna were dominated for days by posts referencing the National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

Terra's ascendance attracted not only retail investors but also better-known cryptocurrency experts. One notable "Lunatic" was billionaire Mike Novogratz, who tattooed his upper arm with the word Luna and a wolf howling at the moon. Novogratz told his followers that the tattoo "will be a constant reminder that venture investing requires humility."

Michael Estrabillo entrusted his crypto investments to stablegains, an investment vehicle that he says had assured him and other investors that the funds were secured in USD Coin, one of the largest stablecoins. Then, on May 9, he said he was informed his money was locked up in Terra.

"Had I known I was involved in a currency that was backed by an algorithm, I would have never

invested in that," Estrabillo lamented.

Washington may also be waking up to the fact that what used to be niche part of the internet and finance has gone mainstream and can no longer be ignored. The total value of crypto assets hit a peak of \$2.8 trillion last November; it's now below \$1.3 trillion, according to CoinGecko. Surveys show that roughly 16% of adult Americans, or 40 million people, have invested in cryptocurrencies. Retirement account giant Fidelity Investments now offers crypto as a part of a 401(k) plan. Sen. Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, has repeatedly pointed out that crypto is particularly popular among Black Americans, a community long distrustful of Wall Street.

Further, crypto has permeated popular culture. Numerous Super Bowl ads touted crypto. Sports arenas are now named after crypto projects and the Washington Nationals baseball team took a sponsorship deal from Terra before it collapsed. Celebrities routinely shill crypto on social media, and YouTube personalities generate millions of views talking about the latest crypto idea.

Terra's collapse was a bridge too far, it seems.

On Tuesday, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York, and Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyoming, proposed a framework to start regulating the industry, which would include giving the Commodity Futures Trading Commission full regulatory jurisdiction over cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and rewriting the tax code to include crypto. It would also fully regulate stablecoins for the first time ever.

This comes after the Biden administration's working group on financial markets issued a 22-page report last November, calling on Congress to pass legislation that would regulate stablecoins. One recommendation includes a requirement that stablecoin issuers become banks that would hold sufficient cash reserves.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has also called for stablecoin regulation, saying "we really need a regulatory framework to guard against the risks," during a House committee meeting in May.

Further, it appears that the cryptocurrency industry — with its libertarian leanings and deep skepticism of Washington — might also be on board.

"I do think this is a bit of a wake-up call. A lot of people were taken aback by Terra's failure," said Perianne Boring, founder of the Chamber of Digital Commerce, one of the top lobbyists for the cryptocurrency industry.

Other crypto lobby groups, like the Association for Digital Asset Markets, have announced support for the Lummis-Gillibrand bill.

One idea that Washington seems to be coalescing around is that entities that issue stablecoins — often used as a bridge between traditional finance and the crypto world — need to be transparent about the assets backing them and be as liquid as any other instrument playing a key role in finance.

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pennsylvania, is circulating a separate bill that would require stablecoin providers to have a license to operate, restrict the types of assets they carry to back those stablecoins, as well as be subject to routine auditing to make sure they are complying.

Describing Terra as a "debacle," Toomey said in an interview that Terra's collapse made it even more important that Washington build some guardrails around stablecoins. Toomey is the top Republican on the Senate Banking Committee.

"It's always difficult to get anything across the goal line in the Senate, but there's nothing politically polarizing about creating a statutory regime for stablecoins," Toomey said.

After Terra's collapse there are two remaining big stablecoins: USD Coin issued by the company Circle, and Tether, created by the Hong Kong-based company Bitfinex. Both hold hard assets to back their value, but Bitfinex is less transparent about the assets it holds and is not audited. There are also a host of smaller stablecoin issuers, which in the world of crypto could become the latest hot item overnight.

"It's not just urgent that Washington step in, it's urgently urgent," said Jeremy Allaire, founder and CEO of Circle, in an interview.



U.S. sees heightened extremist threat heading into midterms

By BEN FOX
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A looming Supreme Court decision on abortion, an increase of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border and the midterm elections are potential triggers for extremist violence over the next six months, the Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday.

The U.S. was in a "heightened threat environment" already, and these factors may worsen the situation, DHS said in the latest National Terrorism Advisory System bulletin.

"In the coming months, we expect the threat environment to become more dynamic as several highprofile events could be exploited to justify acts of violence against a range of possible targets," DHS said. It's the latest attempt by Homeland Security to draw attention to the threat posed by domestic violent extremism, a shift from alerts about international terrorism that were a hallmark of the agency followina its creation after the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Indeed, the threats from overseas rate only passing mentions in this bulletin. It notes that al-Qaida supporters celebrated the January standoff at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas. And it mentions that the Islamic State group called on supporters to carry out attacks in the United States to avenge the killings of the group's leader and spokesman.

DHS also warns that China, Russia, Iran and other nations seek to foment divisions within the U.S. to





The Department of Homeland Security logo is seen during a news conference in Washington, Feb. 25, 2015.

weaken the country and its

In part, they do this by am-

plifying conspiracy theories

and false reports that prolif-

erate in American society.

Domestic violent extremists,

however, present the most

pressing and potentially

violent threat, the agency

said, citing, for example,

the racist attack in which

a white gunman killed 10

Black people at a Buffalo,

New York, supermarket in

The bulletin, which is sched-

uled to expire Nov. 30, said

calls for violence by do-

mestic extremists directed

at democratic institutions,

candidates and election

workers will likely increase

A senior DHS official, speak-

ing to reporters ahead of

the release of the bulletin,

said it describes the situa-

tion as "dynamic" because

authorities are seeing a

wider variety of people motivated by a broader range of arievances and

incidents than in the past.

The upcoming decision from the Supreme Court, which could overturn Roe v. Wade, could lead to violence from either extremist

supporters or opponents of

abortion rights depending on the outcome, said the official, speaking on the

condition of anonymity to

discuss some factors that

went into the preparation

through the fall.

May.

standing in the world.

Associated Press

of the bulletin.

Racial extremists may be motivated by immigration enforcement or whether the government continues to rely on Title 42, the public health order that has been used since the start of the coronavirus pandemic to prevent people from seeking asylum at the southwest border, DHS said.

The agency and the FBI are working with state and local law enforcement to raise awareness of the threat, and DHS has increased grant funding to local governments and religious organizations to improve security, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas said in a statement released with the bulletin.



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Police: DNA technology connects man to Florida serial rapes

By FREIDA FRISARO Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) - Advanced DNA technology helped detectives link the cases of six women to a man accused of being the "pillowcase rapist" for a string of rapes back in the 1980s.

Robert Koehler is currently jailed in neighboring Miami-Dade County, where he faces charges for assaulting a woman in the early '80s as well, Broward County Sheriff Gregory Tony said in a Tuesday morning news conference.

Authorities believe Koehler, 62, may have committed 40 to 45 rapes, terrifying victims by breaking into their homes at night, the sheriff said. The assailant used a pillowcase or other fabric to cover his face — or the face of his victims — before assaulting them, tying them up and stealing items from their homes.

The assaults by the pillowcase rapist attracted extensive media attention in South Florida and the creation of a task force to investigate the sex crimes, sheriff's officials said.

But the trail eventually turned cold and the cases ended up in the cold case unit. However, sheriff's officials said the meticulous re-



Robert Eugene Koehler sits in court at his first appearance before Judge David Silverman via closed circuit on Jan. 21, 2020 at the Brevard County Jail in Sharpes, Fla

Associated Press

cord-keeping on the original cases provided detectives the ability to test the evidence decades later. They dug through 500 boxes of evidence and thousands of sexual assault cases to link the cases to Koehler, said Sgt. Kami Floyd. Floyd began looking through the files in 2019 and found the case of a woman who was assaulted in her Pompano Beach

apartment in June 1984.

That led her to several other similar crimes in Broward County.

"It was a hunch," Floyd said linking the first case she found to Koehler. "It was a hunch based specifically on this case, that he used a pillowcase to cover his face, and at no point was she able to identify who he was because she didn't know what he looked like." Around the same time, in 2020, prosecutors in MiamiDade County announced Koehler's arrest and said he was thought to be the "pillowcase rapist" whose knifepoint attacks put women across South Florida on edge beginning in

Floyd got a search warrant for Koehler's DNA and testing done by the sheriff's office crime lab found it matched the evidence in the cases she was investigating, she said.

Detectives worked with prosecutors to bring six sexual assault charges against Koehler.

"When I found my first case, it actually saddened me to have to reach out to that victim and have her relive what had happened so many years ago," Floyd said.

It was heartbreaking in many cases, she added, because some women had not even told their families what had happened to them. She said some of the victims told her they would need to talk it over with their families before discussing it with her.

"But when they did decide to come back and were brave enough to discuss it with me, I was very proud of them," she said.

Their stories were all similar. They lived alone. They were assaulted at night, and the attacker apparently knew their habits, including in some cases the layout of their apartments.

Now, those victims are very relieved to know the man who attacked them may be brought to justice, she said.

"Several of them have commented that they hope more women will come forward," Floyd said.



Former congresswoman and gun violence survivor Gabby Giffords stands among vases of flowers that make up the Gun Violence Memorial installation near the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, Tuesday, June 7, 2022. **Associated Press**

By ASHRAF KHALIL **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eleven years after her own life was massively altered by aun violence, former congresswoman Gabby Giffords stood in front of the Washinaton Monument

Tuesday and lobbied anew for stricter gun laws after yet another string of mass shootings in America.

"Stopping gun violence takes courage, the courage to do what's right," Giffords said, surrounded by more than 45,000 small

Former Rep. Giffords tells Congress 'be bold' on gun reform

flowers representing each of the Americans killed by gun violence each year. "We must never stop fighting. Be bold. Be courageous. The nation is counting on you." Giffords, was shot in the head in 2011 while speaking to constituents in a mass shooting in Tucson, Arizona, that killed six people. Her injuries from the assassination attempt left her with difficulty walking and occasional difficulty speaking.

She has emerged as an advocate for nationwide gun control laws; the foundation she created placed the flowers around the Washington Monument. long-standing Giffords'

vases of white and orange cause has been given fresh momentum by a new string of mass shootings around the country, from an elementary school in Texas to a grocery store in Buffalo, New York, and a medical clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The violence has spurred a

flurry of activity in the nation's capital, with Democrats in Congress pushing for sweeping reforms that include raising the national age limit to purchase a gun and banning automatic weapons. Families of the victims in the most recent mass shootings spoke before the Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, with more hearings planned in advance of mass marches this weekend in Washington and other cities. But whatever reform package passes the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives is in danger of being watered down by the Republicans in the Senate. Tuesday's press conference was part of a campaign to build pressure on Congress and argue that American public opinion favors serious reform of gun laws at a national level. "We know what the solutions are. We've seen them work in some states and we've certainly seen it in other countries," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., Raising the national age limit to 21, "would be a major game changer in a lot of these shootings," she said.



Dutch prosecutors demand life sentences in reporter slaying

By PETER DEJONG **Associated Press**

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Prosecutors demanded life sentences Tuesday for two men charged in the brazen killing of a popular Dutch investigative reporter last year, as his children paid tribute to a courageous journalist and loving father and grandfather.

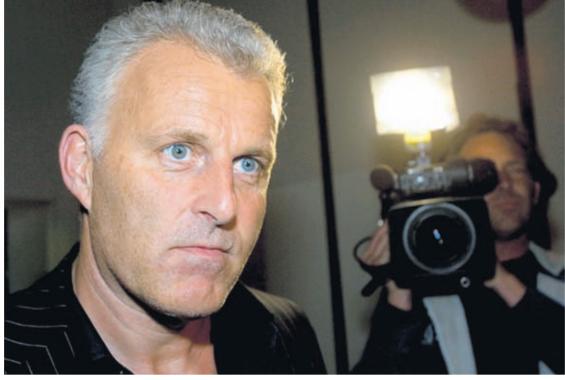
The slaying of Peter R. de Vries triggered a national outpouring of grief and government pledges to crack down on Amsterdam's increasingly violent drugs underworld.

Prosecutors accuse 21-year-old Dutchman identified only as Delano G. of shooting De Vries at close range in a downtown Amsterdam street on July 6 last year.

The campaigning reporter and television personality died nine days later of his injuries at age 64. The second suspect on trial is a Polish national, identified as Kamil E., who is the alleged getaway driver.

In a closing statement at their trial, prosecutors cited the "extremely serious" nature of the crime, the suspects' lack of remorse, and a string of previous underworld murders as reasons for demanding life sentences.

Judges at Amsterdam District Court reviewed a up by two wonderful par-



Dutch crime reporter Peter R. de Vries arrives for a live TV show in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Thursday Jan. 31, 2008.

Associated Press

dossier of evidence prosecutors say links the men to the slaying, including telephone text messages and video footage.

In the afternoon, De Vries' son, Royce, and daughter Kelly used victim impact statements to emotionally recall his campaigning journalism and the way he managed to combine his work with his family.

"I can still bring myself to treat you humanely," Kelly de Vries told the suspects. "Why? Because that's the way I was raised. Brought

ents who stood up for what was right. Even though it was not an easy path; who dared to stand up for people who had been wronged."

She called De Vries "My dearest father, my buddy, confidant and caring grandfather for my child." Royce de Vries told judges: "I'm convinced that if these suspects had asked my father for help that evening, he would have given it," Dutch broadcaster NOS reported. "Instead, they pulled the trigger."

Lawyers for the suspects

are scheduled to speak at a separate hearing next week, Judges are due to deliver verdicts July 14.

A judge in Tuesday's hearing directly asked G. if he shot De Vries, to which the suspect replied: "I make use of my right to silence," according to footage recorded by NOS. The other suspect said: "I did not kill that man."

Prosecutors say the two suspects were arrested less than an hour after the shooting in a getaway car on a highway near The Hague with the weapon used to shoot De Vries in the car

Also in the car was a mobile phone, that prosecutors say contained messages alluding to the killing. One of the judges in the case read out the messages during Tuesday's hearing.

One exchange included two pictures of De Vries and the message: "You have to get this dog."

Later, a message from the phone found in the car read: "He's dead ... everyone screaming. He didn't move anymore."

De Vries made his name as a crime journalist who reported on and wrote a bestselling book about the 1983 kidnapping of beer magnate Freddy Heineken. Later in his career, he campaigned tirelessly to resolve cold cases. Before his shooting, De Vries had been an adviser and confidant for a witness in the trial of the alleged leader and other members of a crime gang that police described as an "oiled killing machine." The witness' brother and his lawyer both were murdered.

The suspected gangland leader, Ridouan Taghi, was extradited to the Netherlands from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2019 and is currently standing trial. He hasn't been charged in De Vries' killing.

Thailand urged to let U.N. evaluate refugee status of Rohingya

BANGKOK (AP) — A group of ethnic Rohingya left on a Thai island after a dangerous boat journey from Bangladesh should be given help and the opportunity to determine if they are refugees, Human Rights Watch said Tuesday.

The mostly Muslim Rohing- rickety old boats. Those ya have long been persecuted in Myanmar. More than 700,000 fled to neighboring Bangladesh in 2017 to escape a military counterinsurgency campaign that the U.S. and others have called genocide. Since then, Rohingya have attempted to leave both

Myanmar and Bangladesh on perilous sea journeys to Malaysia, a Muslim-majority country relatively lenient to arriving migrants.

The voyages are often arranged by human trafficking gangs who charge large sums for passage on boats that don't sink can end up elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Thailand, especially, tries to turn them away, usually after supplying fuel and food. Boat passengers who make it ashore in Thailand are detained by authorities or sent by the traffickers to work in

slave-like conditions.

The Thai navy said the 59

Rohingya left an island in the Andaman Sea had traveled from Bangladesh on large fishing boats. "But when they arrived, the ship's captain brought these people to the island and said it was Malaysia," the navy's statement said. The 31 men, 23 women, three boys and two girls were detained after being found Saturday on the southern island of Koh Dong. The navy said it will continue to follow Thailand's standard procedures, including providing



In this photo released by the Royal Thai Navy taken June 4, 2022, members of the Thai navy help Rohingya refugees found on Koh Dong Island in Satun province, southern Thailand. **Associated Press**

humanitarian assistance, for people deemed to be immigrating illegally. Human Rights Watch said

Thailand was obligated to assess the people's claims for refugee protection before trying to return them.



Report: 'Perpetual' Israeli occupation at root of violence

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Investigators commissioned by the U.N.'s top human rights body say tensions between Palestinians and Israelis are underpinned by Israel's "perpetual occupation" of Palestinian areas with no apparent intention of ending it.

The findings came Tuesday in the first report by a Commission of Inquiry, headed by a three-person team of human rights experts. It was set up last year by the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council following an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. The U.N. human rights office says the war killed at least 261 people - including 67 children - in Gaza, and 14 people, including two children, in Israel.

The commission, headed by former U.N. human rights chief Navi Pillay, is the first to have an "ongoing" mandate from the U.N. rights body. Critics allege that permanent scrutiny testifies to an anti-Israel bias in the 47-member-state council and other U.N. bodies. Proponents say the commission is needed to keep tabs on persistent injustices faced by Palestinians under decades of Israeli rule. The report largely recaps efforts by U.N. investigators over the years to grapple with the causes of Mideast violence and the authors



Israeli police officers detain a Palestinian during a protest supporting Palestinian families who are under threat of eviction from their longtime homes by Jewish settlers in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, Dec. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

acknowledged it was in part a "review" of previous U.N. findings.

"What has become a situation of perpetual occupation was cited by Palestinian and Israeli stakeholders to the commission as the one common issue" that amounts to the "underlying root cause" of recurrent tensions, instability and protracted conflict, the authors wrote. They said "impunity" for perpetrators of violence was feeding resentment among Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem.

Israel's government, which opposed the creation of

the commission, refused to grant its members access to Israel or Palestinian territories, and testimonies from Palestinians and Israelis were collected from Geneva and Jordan.

Israel's Foreign Ministry rejected the report as "part and parcel of the witch hunt carried out by the Human Rights Council against Israel."

It called the report biased and one-sided and accused the commission members of ignoring Palestinian violence, incitement and antisemitism. "The Commission members, who claim to be objective, were only appointed to their roles because of their public and well-known anti-Israel stances, in direct opposition to the rules set out by the United Nations," it said. The report's authors cited "credible" evidence that "convincingly indicates that Israel has no intention of ending the occupation" and has plans to ensure complete control of Palestinian areas. Israel's government, it added, has been "acting to alter the demography through the maintenance of a repressive environment for Palestinians and a favorable environment for Israeli settlers "

They also voiced criticism of Palestinian leaders, saying the Palestinian Authority, which administers autonomous areas in parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, frequently refers to the occupation as a justification for its own human rights violations. It also points to the occupation as the core reason for failure to hold legislative and presidential elections, the authors said. The PA is widely criticized for corruption and intolerance for dissent.

Despite the criticism, the Palestinian Authority welcomed the report. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said the report found "beyond any doubt, that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and discrimination against Palestinians are the root causes behind the recurrent tensions, instability and prolongation of conflict in the region."

As for Hamas authorities in Gaza, the commission said they show little commitment toward upholding human rights and little adherence to international law. Since seizing control of Gaza in 2007, Hamas has shown little tolerance for political dissent and been accused of torturing opponents.

Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Gaza Strip from Egypt in the 1967 Mideast war.



Turkish tanks and troops are deployed near the Syrian town of Manbij, Syria, Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

By BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press
BEIRUT (AP) — The U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led forces in northern Syria said

Tuesday that they will turn to the government in Damascus for support should Turkey go ahead with its threat to launch a new in-

U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds to turn to Damascus if Turkey attacks

cursion into the war-torn country. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, said after a meeting of its command that its priority is to reduce tension near the border with Turkey but also prepare for a long fight if Ankara carries out its threat. The announcement appears to be a message directed at the United States and meant to elicit pressure from Washington on Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to put aside his offensive plans. Erdogan has repeatedly

said over the past weeks that he's planning a major military operation to create a 30-kilometer (19 mile) deep buffer zone inside Syria along Turkey's border, through a cross-border incursion against U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish fighters — an attempt that failed in 2019. Analysts have said Erdogan is taking advantage of the war in Ukraine to push his own goals in Svrig — even using Turkey's ability as a NATO member to veto alliance membership by Finland and Sweden as potential leverage.

On the ground, the situation has been tense with near daily exchanges of fire and shelling between the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters on one side and Turkish forces and Turkeybacked Syrian opposition gunmen on the other.

The Turkey-backed Syrian opposition fighters have been preparing for weeks to take part in the expected operation against Syrian Kurdish-led forces, seeking to expand their area of influence inside Syria.



Indigenous expert, British writer still missing in Brazil

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE and DAVID BILLER Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A British journalist and an Indigenous affairs official were still missing in a remote part of Brazil's Amazon on Tuesday as authorities said they were expanding search efforts in the area, which has seen violent conflicts between fishermen, poachers and government agents.

Dom Phillips, who has been a regular contributor to the British newspaper The Guardian, and Bruno Araújo Pereira were last seen early Sunday in the Sao Rafael community, according to the Univaja association of people in the Vale do Javari Indigenous territory, for which Pereira has been an adviser.

The pair was returning by boat to the city of Atalaia do Norte, about an hour away, but never showed up.

Pereira is one of the Brazilian Indigenous affairs agency's most experienced employees operating in the Vale do Javari area. He oversaw the agency's regional office and the coordination of isolated Indigenous groups before going on leave. He has received a stream of threats from illegal fishermen and poachers, and usually carries a gun. Univaja said the two had been threatened during their reporting trip. On Saturday, while they were camped out, a small group of men traveled by river to the Indigenous territory's boundary and brandished firearms at a Unijava patrol, the association's president, Paulo Marubo, told The Associated Press. Phillips photographed the men at the time, Marubo said.

Phillips, 57, has reported from Brazil for more than a decade and has been working on a book about preservation of the Amazon with support from the Alicia Patterson Foundation, which gave him a yearlong fellowship for environmental reporting that ran through January.

The pair disappeared while returning from a two-day



British journalist Dom Phillips, right, and a Yanomami Indigenous man walk in Maloca Papiu village, Roraima state, Brazil, Nov. 2019.

Associated Press

trip to the Jaburu Lake region, where Phillips interviewed local Indigenous people, Univaja said. Only the two were on the boat. The place where they went missing is the primary access route to the Vale do Javari, Brazil's secondlargest Indigenous territory, which is bigger than Maine and where several thousand Indigenous people live in dozens of villages. People from the area say that it is highly unlikely the men would have gotten lost in that sector.

"He is a cautious journalist, with impressive knowledge of the complexities of the Brazilian environmental crisis," Margaret Engel, the Alicia Patterson Foundation's executive director, wrote in an email. "And he is a beautiful writer and a lovely person. The best of our business."

Brazil's federal public prosecutors said in a statement Monday that they had opened an investigation and that the Federal Po-

lice, Amazonas state's civil police, the national guard and navy had been mobilized. The navy, which prosecutors described as coordinating the search, said it sent a search-and-rescue team of seven and would deploy a helicopter Tuesday. There were no reports of helicopters being used at any point on Monday, and many of the men's colleagues expressed concern that the government didn't appear to be acting swiftly.

"We request from the authorities speed, seriousness and all possible resources for that search," Pereira's family wrote in a statement. "Every minute counts, every stretch of the river and the forest not yet checked could be the one where they are waiting for rescue."

The army's manpower is far greater than the navy's in the region, and there was no indication from officials on why it wasn't included in the initial search efforts. But

late Monday, a spokesperson for the army's Amazon division told AP it had since received orders to deploy a search mission.

Phillips has also contributed to the Washington Post and New York Times. He currently resides in Salvador, a city in Brazil's Bahia state, with his wife, Alessandra Sampaio, who shared a series of messages posted on Twitter by a journalist helping to advise her.

"I can only pray that Dom and Bruno are well, somewhere, prevented from continuing on for some mechanical reason, and that all of this becomes just one more story in a life replete with them," Sampaio wrote. "I know, however, the moment the Amazon is going through and I know the risks that Dom always denounced."

The Vale do Javari region has experienced repeated shootouts between hunters, fishermen and official security agents, who have a permanent base in the area, which has the world's largest population of uncontacted Indigenous people. It is also a major route for cocaine produced on the Peruvian side of the border, then smuggled into Brazil to supply local cities or to be shipped to Europe.

In September 2019, an employee of the Indigenous affairs agency was shot dead in Tabatinga, the largest city in the region. The crime was never solved.

"It is extremely important that Brazilian authorities dedicate all available and necessary resources to the immediate realization of searches, in order to guarantee, as soon as possible, the safety of the two men," Maria Laura Canineau, the director of Human Rights Watch in Brazil, said in a statement Monday.

Journalists working for regional media outlets in the Amazon have been slain in recent years, though there have been no such cases among journalists from national or foreign media. However, there have been several reports of threats, and the press has limited access to several areas dominated by criminal activity, including illegal mining, land-grabbing and drug trafficking.

President Jair Bolsonaro issued a comment Tuesday: "Really, just two people in a boat in a completely wild region like that is not a recommended adventure. Anything could happen. It could be an accident, it could be that they have been killed," he said in an interview with television network SBT. "We hope and ask God that they're found soon. The armed forces are working hard."

Three of Bolsonaro's ministers told the AP on Tuesday that the government recognizes the importance of a swift response, and is concerned that apparent failure to do so will cast a shadow over Bolsonaro's attendance at the Summit of the Americas this week in Los Angeles. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to speak publicly.

SETAR

Infini by Chef Urvin Croes

PALM BEACH — After spearheading The Kitchen Table for five years, receiving notable recognitions in USA Today, The Daily Meal and earning the #1 spot on Tripadvisor's list of Fine Dining Restaurants in the Caribbean, Chef Urvin Croes has now moved on to higher heights. Infini, his new chef's table, which opened at the Blue Residences in 2020, allows the Michelin-trained Aruban culinary artist to create gastronomic experiences unconfined by cultural or regional expectations. Croes says: "We opened up the entire kitchen and elevated the dining tables so guests have a front row stadiumlike view of each step of the preparations. A chef's table concept where diners and staff are able to interact throughout the evening, channeling through a story guided by a 12 course menu.

"It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can cre-

Inspired by umami, one of the five basic tastes, and also Japanese for "essence of deliciousness", Chef Croes strived to organically produce this palate in each dish of the twelve-course Asian Caribbean Impression tasting menu. "It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create.



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"Without a great team, there is no great chef"

"There is very little I can do by myself. Without a great team, there is no great chef", says Croes, while raving about the young professionals sharing his kitchen. All graduates of Aruba's EPI College and familiar faces to the Chef as each one has completed their culinary internship under his guidance. In fact, Infini's Chef de Cuisine, Ashwin Maduro, was Urvin's very first student, before relocating to Amsterdam, where he worked at several Michelin-starred restaurants, including &moshik (formally &Samhoud Places). Having recently returned to Aruba, Chef Maduro is thrilled to be reunited with his first mentor and hopes to secure Aruba's space on the global map of unique culinary experiences. Similarly, after four years working in the two-Michelin starred restaurant Spectrum, Chef de Partie Moises Ramirez returned home to share his vast experience in formulating recipes with meticulous attention to detail and consistency. Further down the kitchen line, Chef de Partie Alvaro Yi, who has worked at the two-Michelin starred FG Restaurant, is all about expressing himself through cooking and plating to create art that you can eat. Mixologist Marc-Anthony Rannis brings eight years of experience in the fine dining industry to Infini. His fine craftsmanship is displayed in the unparalleled wine pairings and signature cocktails, which include his personally homemade syrups, garnishes and fresh local ingredients. Maître D' and Junior Sommelier Jessica Theysen, who previously managed renowned Chef Dennis Huwaë's Restaurant Daalder in Amsterdam, is a true storyteller. From the moment she serves the Salinity welcome drink and the culinary tale begins, she takes you on an adventure around the world to discover never-before-tasted combinations. Then, towards the end of the night, it is his time to shine — Pastry Chef Jean-Claude Werleman, that is. After spending the last two years perfecting his recipes in the Pastry Department of the Ritz Carlton Aruba, Werleman joins Infini to continue exploring his passion for experimenting with colors and bold flavors.

"It's time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own"

"The goal is to leave our visitors speech-



less. The look on their faces whenever they take the first bite says it all and it is priceless", shares Croes, with a smile. Reclaiming the spot of number one restaurant in the Caribbean is also in sight, but this time he will not stop there. "In the end, we want Aruba to be recognized for its culinary mastery. We have trained the best culinary artists right here on the island and they have proven themselves internationally in the most renowned kitchens in the world. Now it is time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own. Who knows where that will take us; hopefully to infinity and beyond."

Infini located at Blue Residences currently serves an eight-course Chef's Impression to up to 21 guests starting at 6:30PM. To make reservations visit www. infiniaruba.com or call +297-699-3982.







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Aruba Airport Authority N.V.'s Wings of Hope:

UNESCO Schools Aruba Consortium wins SDG School Champion

Challenge 2022

ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V.'s (AAA) "Wings of Hope" (WoH) proudly announces UNES-CO Schools Aruba Consortium (UNESCO) as the official winner of WoH's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) School Champion Challenge 2022.

On Saturday June 4, 2022, WoH held its SDG School Champion Challenge 2022 final event where a total of 12 schools participated. As part of WoH's SDG Awareness goal, schools were given the opportunity to participate in a school champion project competition where they had to develop a Sustainable project plan with one or more of the SDGs as their primary goal for their schools.

A total of 12 Sustainable project plans were handed in to the WoH team by the schools including Colegio Bon Bini, St. Paulus School, Scol Paso Pa Futuro, EPB San Nicolas, Scol Practico Zinzendorf School, John Wesley College, Nos Fortalesa Montessori School, Colegio Laura Wernet-Paskel, Colegio Pastoor Kranwinkel, Colegio Sagrado Curason and UNESCO (Colegio Hilario Angela, Prinses Amalia School-Basis, Edu Campus, International School of Aruba). The 12 Sustainable project plans were carefully reviewed by a group of industry pro-

fessionals and at the final event, all schools had to give their final 8-minute pitch to the judges to complete their score.

In the presence of AAA's CEO Mr. Joost Meijs and AAA's WoH Team, UNESCO officially received the winning prize of AWG 20,000.00 by AAA's Wings of Hope to successfully execute their Sustainable prioject plan. Grant Thornton Aruba also proudly presented the 2nd place winner Scol Practico Pa Ofishi St. Cruz (SPO) with AWG 1,000.00 and ACE Firm Engineering presented the 3rd place winner John Wesley College with AWG 500.00.

AAA WoH recognize the importance of Sustainability and their Corporate Social Responsibility towards the Aruban Community and look forward to continue including students and the Community in projects, and in doing so creating awareness on the impor-Pa Ofishi St. Cruz, Graf von tance of sustainable practices whilst encouraging all to embrace changes that create a better and more sustainable future for all.













Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience! Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Another native history

Etnia Nativa facilitates cultural awareness, education and safeguards Aruba's heritage by elevating each reader into an island keeper state of mind. Be encouraged to discover in every episode the true native effect, live it, get more reasons to love Aruba behind the beaches and liven up your stay in an incredibly wonderful way.

Many native stories were passed down from generation to generation and one of those stories is of Maria Largu and Mamanchi, Women who according to our tradition belong to the history of Alto Vista (see chapter136) Maria Largu "Long or tall Mary "and Mamanchi, as we know, where mestize Cathlics people who adapted who would have belonged to the Silvester, Alvarez and Tromp families of Although we cannot identify their Amerindian families, however they all must have desend from Caquietian nobels of that time.

Maria Largu was a smart woman of island standard

those days. Owning farm and grasing land, had many old world animals in herited of the the Castillans. Maria Larau also had liberated slaves who were in charge of taking care of the animal such as horse, donkeys, sheeps, goats and poultry. Fishing and farming whas more a native thing. Maria's hudreds of goats, sheeps and some donkeys roamed normally free from Alto Vista to Westpunt. At that same time in the Noord area and around the vicinity of the Alto Vista chapel there was a rain water collecting reservour known as "Tanki di Maria Largu" supplying water to many.

Maria Largu lived in Alto Vista but she owned many house elsewhere. The story goes that under of each of those hous-

Episode CLVII- 157

es she builded, she had buried a bar of gold as for good luck supersticion. She was a person of great fortune and everyone treated her with great respect. However rich maybe but very simple in her ways, so much that her veryday clothing she whore was like that of any Native Aruban peasant, all white cotton—trouses, bottonless shirt called "cashaca" and a pair if "pargati" leather and fabric sandals which weres ideal for the unforgiving tropical heat.

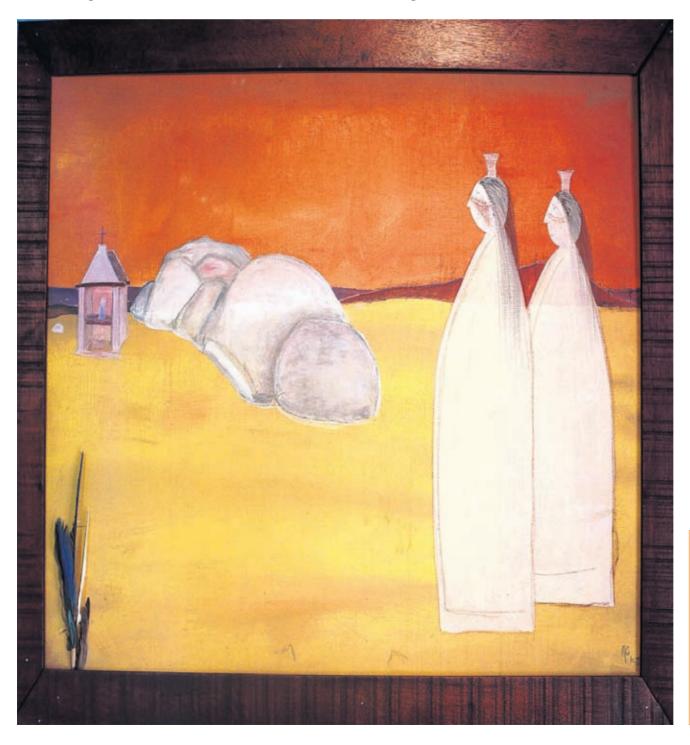
We know that one of the last places where Maria Largu lived was south of Sero de Alto Vista known as "Tinashl" or place of the clay pot.

They say that Maria Largu had a daughter known as "Mamanchi" and it is at this point where the story gets "confused" a bit because some people say that Mamanchi was Maria Largu's mother and not her daughter. Mamanchi also known to owned many animals and until the 1960s there was a well known plot of farmland called "Cunuco di Mamanchi" or Mamachi's land, located in the vicinity of Curimiau-Turibana in the Noord area. Before she died, Mamanchi expressed her wish to be buried near Alto Vista and so it was! Maria Largo and Mamanchi wher great benefactors to the Catholic church, helped the poor and the sick of the island and liberated as many black and red slaves that she could. She had spended time and invested in repairing and maintain the chapel at Alto Vista. She was well known in Curacao and on the mainland where she had families. Maria and mamachi where among the well to do natives, who still had that nobel souls devoted to others and by doing so, they have help the island to bocome a better place.

If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa: a cozy museum/home.

Etnia Nativa a private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials.

Meet Anthony Croes, our columnist at his home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@ gmail.com





Millennial Money: Curb inflation with 5 credit card perks



In this March 5, 2012, file photo, consumer credit cards are posed in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

By MELISSA LAMBARENA of costs. It allows you to trans-**NerdWallet**

As prices on goods and services continue to rise because of inflation, scaling back expenses isn't the only way to free up cash to cover essentials.

Credit cards can feature valuable perks for new applicants, whether your goal is to pay off debt or save on costs. Even if you already have a card, you may be sitting on targeted offers, rewards or benefits that could make a difference. Here are some ways to maximize value from a credit card.

1. INTRODUCTORY OFFERS

If you've got good credit (a FICO score of 690 or higher) and a big expense coming up, consider financing it with a credit card that offers a 0% intro annual percentage rate on purchases and a sign-up bonus. As long as you pay off the balance, you'll save on interest charges and potentially recoup some of the cost of the purchase with that bonus.

If you have good credit but want to pay off existing debt, a balance transfer credit card may lower

fer high-interest debt from another issuer and pay it 2. BUY NOW, PAY LATER OPoff at a lower interest rate — ideally at a 0% APR for a period of time."There is going to be a (balance transfer) fee, so you have to shop around a lot of times," says Melissa Cox, a certified financial planner and advisor at Fetterman Investments, a Dallas-based financial planning firm.

Aim for a fee of 3% of the transferred balance or lower. Compare that fee with the cost of long-term interest payments on your current card to determine which option saves more money. If the balance transfer makes sense, make a plan for it.

"If you know that the transfer is going to be six months A credit card that offers a kicking in, you want to have a plan to get as much of that debt paid off in that six months," Cox says.

You can typically find promotional periods for balance transfers that run under two years. And you may not need to apply for a new credit card to get such a deal; some card issuers provide targeted balance transfer offers to existing cardholders.

TIONS

Some major issuers have built-in "buy now, pay later" options on their credit cards that let you pay off eligible purchases in installments for a fixed fee or interest rate.

The predictability of these types of payments can make it easier to budget for them, and such plans could save you money if their fee or interest rate is cheaper than your card's normal APR. The plans don't require a credit check, and you can generally still earn rewards on purchases if the card offers them.

3. REWARDS ON PURCHASES

before the interest starts rewards rate of 2% back on all purchases — or 3% or more back in specific categories — can help lessen the pain of rising prices.

For instance, let's say you spend \$500 a month at the supermarket. A credit card that earns 5% back on groceries could net you \$25 back in rewards each billing cycle. Over the course of a year, that adds up.

If your current credit card

falls short on rewards for family cell phone plan frequent spending categories like gas, dining out or groceries, consider one that better aligns with your spendina.

4. MERCHANT-SPECIFIC DIS-COUNTS

Some major credit card issuers offer discounts or rebates when you use a credit card to shop with specific merchants in categories like everyday purchases, gifts and travel. These one-time offers may be found in your account or email, and you normally have to "activate" them or add them to your card.

You'll snag more value if the eligible credit card also earns rewards on the purchase.

5. BENEFITS

Money-saving benefits like cell phone insurance may be sitting in your wallet. You can get coverage for damaged or stolen devices up to a maximum amount when you use cards with this benefit to pay the monthly bill. There's typically a small deductible, and terms usually apply.

For Tony Florida — the primary account holder of his

the savings from his credit card's cell phone protection benefit add up. If he were paying his cell phone provider for protection, it could cost \$14 or more per device monthly. Cell phone repairs could also be pricey. When his sister dropped her phone and broke it, he filed a claim using the benefit on his card, paid the deductible and got reimbursed.

"They just gave me a statement credit for the estimated cost of the phone," says Florida, who's also a content creator of the YouTube channel Thrifty Tony. "It was like over \$500 that they reimbursed us for."

The claims process is a bit clunky, according to Florida, but he says it's still worth it since you're not paying extra money for this ben-

If your card lacks this perk, it may have others. For instance, you might have price protection, which refunds the difference in price of an item found advertised at a lower price elsewhere. To find out which benefits your credit card offers, contact the issuer or log in to your account.



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

46 Shop Applied tool gently 7 Bushy **DOWN** do 1 Friend of 11 How some Dopey

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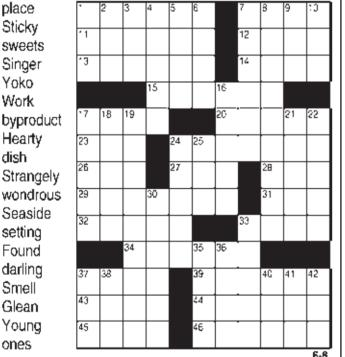
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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three Us, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different,

6-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

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OMXLYK BKIXB Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN I'M NO LONGER RAPPING, I WANT TO OPEN UP AN ICE CREAM PARLOR AND CALL MYSELF

New panels want to talk ethics, rules of climate tinkering



Activists of the environment organization Greenpeace protest with CO2 letters illuminated with flames in front of the Brandenburg Gate against the climate change in Berlin, Germany, May 6, 2021.

Associated Press

By SETH BORENSTEIN **AP Science Writer**

Tinkering with the planet's air to cool Earth's everwarming climate is inchina closer to reality enough so that two different highpowered groups — one of scientists and one of former world leaders — are trying to come up with ethics and governing guidelines.

On Thursday, the newly formed Climate Overshoot Commission — which includes the former presidents of Mexico, Niger and Kiribati, a former Canadian prime minister, the ex-chief of World Trade Organization and other national minister level officials — will have its first meeting in Italy in a 15-month process to come up with governance strategy on pulling carbon dioxide out of the air, lowering temperatures by reflecting sunlight with artificial methods and adapting to climate change. This month, the American Geophysical Union, the largest society of scientists who work on climate issues, announced it was forming an ethics framework for "climate intervention" that

would be ready for debate during the major international climate negotiations in November in Egypt.

This shows the idea of "solar geoengineering is finally getting serious," said Harvard University climate scientist David Keith, a leader in the field.

Both groups said they aren't quite advocating geoengineering, which includes putting particles in the air to reflect sunlight or whiten clouds, or the lessdisputed carbon dioxide removal, such as technology to suck carbon out of the air but also more nature-based solutions such as more trees and getting oceans to sponge up more carbon.

But the two groups say the ideas need to be discussed with global warming nearing and likely shooting past the international goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since preindustrial times. The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since the mid-1800s and scientists say the world

likely to pass the 1.5-degree mark in the 2030s.

"The climate change problem is at a point where even extreme options need to be thought about seriously," Climate Overshoot Commission Executive Secretary Jesse Reynolds said in a Monday interview. "Now, to be clear, thinking about them includes the possibility of rejecting them. But not thinking about them does not seem to be a responsible path forward."

What's needed are ethical guidelines before anything is done to get the public trust, much like the scientific community did with the possibility of human cloning, said AGU Executive Director Randy Fiser said. If this doesn't happen the public will have a giant backlash and won't trust the community, said National Academy of Sciences President Marcia McNutt, who has studied the issue but declined a spot on the AGU ethics panel because of other commitments. An earlier report by the academy "spoke to the double moral hazard of climate intervention: damned if you do, damned if you don't," Mc-Nutt said.

Opponents of geoengineering — such as Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann — worry that just talking about guidelines will make the tinkering more likely to occur in the real world.

"I see it as a potentially cynical maneuver to buy the ostensible moral license to move forward with dangerous geoengineering prescriptions," Mann said in an email. He said not only could there be harmful side effects, but it takes the pressure off of cutting tossil tuel emissions, which is what's really needed.

Mann also said no one can enforce ethics or governance rules, citing efforts to prevent Russia from invading Ukraine, but McNutt pointed to rules governing international oceans.



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BENDIA

One plug and done: EU to require common way to charge phones

By KELVIN CHAN **AP Business Writer**

LONDON (AP) — Forget rummaging through the junk drawer. Soon, Europeans will only need to reach for one cable to charge their smartphones and other devices.

European Union officials said they inked a provisional agreement Tuesday that will require a uniform charging cord in the 27-nation bloc. It's part of a wider effort to make products sold in the EU more sustainable and cut down on electronic waste.

The new rules, which will take effect by fall 2024, mean EU consumers will only need to use a common USB Type-C cable for small and medium-sized rechargeable, portable electronic devices.

"European consumers were frustrated with multiple chargers piling up within their homes," Alex Agius Saliba, the European Parliament's lead negotiator, said at a press briefing in Brussels. "Now, they will

be able to go with a single charger for all portable electronics, which is an important step to increase consumer convenience."

The devices covered include mobile phones, tablets, e-readers, earbuds, digital cameras, headphones and headsets, handheld videogame consoles, keyboards and mice, portable speakers and navigation devices.

Laptops also are covered, but manufacturers have extra time to comply. The rules apply only to devices sold in the European single market, which consists of 30 countries. However, like the EU's strict privacy regulations, they could end up becoming a de facto standard for the rest of the world.

While many electronics makers have started adopting USB-C sockets into their devices, Apple has been one of the main holdouts.



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Proud Marvel super fan, Iman Vellani, stars in 'Ms. Marvel'

By ALICIA RANCILIO **Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Iman Vellani, who stars as Kamala Khan in the new Disney+ series "Ms. Marvel," has a conundrum. Now that she's a part of the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe), does she remove the Marvel posters from the walls of her childhood bedroom or leave them up?

"Brie (Larson) is on my wall and she's in my phone book. So, like, that's weird," said Vellani in a recent interview.

"Ms. Marvel," debuting Wednesday, is 19-year-old Vellani's first professional acting job. Already an avid reader of the comics, Vellani learned of the open audition from her aunt. She went to the audition. Lo and behold, Vellani got the job. The first month on set was spent in prep, rehearsing and stunt training. She had to give up her high school diet of McDonald's and Oreos and build stamina, but Vellani wasn't interested in changing her shape too much. "I was 17. Kamala was 16. I wanted her to look like a normal high school kid," she said.

"My first proper day of filming — that was intense," said Vellani. "It was all of the stunts that I had to do in the real Captain Marvel



Iman Vellani, star of the Disney+ series "Ms. Marvel," poses for a portrait, Thursday, June 2, 2022, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

suit. The one that Brie gets to wear. It was an extremely uncomfortable day. That suit is not made to move in. You're just supposed to stand and walk like a mannequin, and that's what it's made for. There's so many pieces and it's just really uncomfortable, and the scenes were pretty intense. So I came home with all these bruises and everything. My mom was like, 'Oh my God, what happened?' And I'm like, 'I'm a superhe-

ro. That's what happened." Vellani just may be the first Marvel actor who is also a massive fan. She especially loves Robert Downey, Jr. and has proudly rewatched "Iron Man" "more than the average person." "They really are just a projection of real life and make you feel like you're a part of something. Isn't that what we all kind of want, to feel like we belong? And I know it sounds super cheesy, but for the Marvel fandom, it's

comfortable. It's what we know. We can recite everything under the sun about the MCU." Sana Amanat, the co-creator of "Ms. Marvel," jokes that having an actor who is a stan (or, really big fan) as they say, has its challenges.

"Sometimes she would just pull up in the producer's chair next to me and just give lots of thoughts and opinions on, you know, either the show or the rest of the MCU. And I'd be like,

'That's cool, but I need you to just act right now," she laughed, adding, "Iman brought so much life and love to the character and it just made the entire process so much easier."

Vellani was browsina a local comic book store when she discovered the "Ms. Marvel" comics and immediately felt represented in a way that is not common in mainstream media.

"I saw a girl who looked like me. She was Muslim and Pakistani and a superhero fanatic and I was Muslim, Pakistani and a superhero fanatic, so it worked out quite well. And I think my favorite part about the comic books was that it wasn't about her religion or her culture or her ethnicity, it was about a fanficwriting nerd, who just so happened to be Pakistani and just so happened to be Muslim. Those parts of her life motivated her and drove her as a character. she used her religion as a moral code. .. She never neglected her culture. It was something that kind of uplifted her journey."

One of the things about South Asian culture that Vellani says "Ms. Marvel" gets right, is the importance of family. Kamala's parents and brother feature prominently in the series.

Actor Matthew McConaughey holds a picture or Alithia Ramirez, 10, who was killed in the mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, as he speaks during a press briefing at the White House, Tuesday, June 7, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — Award-winning actor Matthew Mc-

By AAMER MADHANI

briefing Tuesday to call on Congress to "reach a higher ground" and pass gun able to, offering a clear control leaislation in honor of the children and teach-Conaughey took center ers killed in last month's vivid detail on the sheer to take questions, spoke trademark green tennis stage at the White House shooting rampage at an loss of the 19 children and of learning to become a shoes worn by another.

McConaughey calls for gun control action at White House

home town of Uvalde, Texas. In a highly personal 22-minute speech, Mc-Conaughey offered a fullthroated exhortation for a gridlocked Congress to pass gun reforms that can save lives without infringing on Second Amendment rights.

McConaughey used his fashion that the Biden ad-

elementary school in his two teachers in the second worst mass school shooting in U.S. history.

"We want secure and safe schools and we want gun laws that won't make it so easy for the bad guys to get the damn guns," Mc-Conaughey said. McCogovernor in Texas before their children's dreams gument for legislation in a with President Joe Biden make their loss of life matbefore addressing the ter," McConaughey said. ministration has not been. White House press corps. He related the personal

responsible gun owner as a youngster in Uvalde. He said he and his wife drove back to Uvalde on the day after the shooting and spent time with the families of some of the victims and others directly impacted by the rampage. He said naughey, who earlier this every parent he spoke to year considered a run for expressed that "they want taking a pass, met briefly to live on." "They want to from the James Brady stories of a number of the connection to the small briefing room. McCo- victims, displaying the art-Texas town and offering naughey, who declined work of one girl and the



Inoue stops Donaire in 2nd round, unifies 3 bantamweight belts

SAITAMA, Japan (AP) -Naoya Inoue stopped Nonito Donaire midway through the second round Tuesday night, emphatically winning their rematch and unifying three bantamweight world titles.

Inoue (23-0, 20 KOs) wasted no time in his second meeting with Donaire, knocking down the veteran champion at the end of the first round and again midway through the second. Inoue's relentless pressure and power ended the fight at 1:24 in Saitama Super Arena outside Tokyo.

"To be able to raise my status up at the top, I needed to win this fight, so I decided to make this fight finish at this moment," Inoue said through a translator. "I pressured myself, and I did it."

Inoue added Donaire's WBC belt to his own WBA and IBF 118-pound straps with his fourth consecutive stoppage victory.

The Japanese star known as "Monster" is considered one of the world's top pound-for-pound talents. Inoue hopes to unify all four major bantamweight titles if he can land a fight with WBO bantamweight



Philippines' Nonito Donaire is knocked down by Japan's Naoya Inoue in their bantamweight title unification boxing match of WBA, WBC and IBF in Saitama, north of Tokyo, Tuesday, June 7, 2022. **Associated Press**

champ Paul Butler of Eng- center of the ring with the land later this year.

"My aim is to be the undisputed champion," Inoue said. "If I can do that within 2022. I would love to stay I'm capable of (moving up in weight)."

Donaire (42-7) entered his rematch with Inoue apparently confident in his ability to trade punches at the

Japanese champion, but Inoue abruptly dropped Donaire with a short right hook moments before the bell to end the first round. in this division. But if I can't, Donaire got up comfortably, but Inoue piled on the pressure in the second round and unloaded on Donaire with another series of accurate shots.

"In the very first round, I re-

ceived the left hook from Nonito, and that punch made me wake up and made me focus for this fight," Inoue said.

After a short left hand put Donaire on wobbly legs in the center of the ring early in the second round, Inoue finished him in the corner with a right-left combination that dropped Donaire to his back on the canvas.

Donaire beat the count, but he didn't protest much when the referee stopped the bout.

Donaire, who will turn 40 later this year, was stopped for only the second time in his career. He had claimed the WBC bantamweight title a year ago with a victory over Nordine Oubaali. Inoue and Donaire first met in November 2019 in the World Boxing Super Series bantamweight final in the same arena. Donaire surprised much of the boxing world with his tenacious performance against his younger, favored opponent. Inoue later revealed his orbital bone had been broken by Donaire's left hook in the second round, and he fought through the first facial cut of his career to knock down Donaire in the 11th round on his way to a victory by unanimous decision. In the rematch, Inoue wasted no time or energy in finishing his Filipino-American opponent. Donaire has held world titles in four divisions during his 21-year professional career, while Inoue has been a world champion in three weight classes.

Figure skating minimum age rises to 17 before 2026 Olympics

PHUKET, Thailand (AP) — No season after, which is the 15-year-old figure skaters will be allowed to compete at the 2026 Olympics following the controversy surrounding Russian national champion Kamila Valieva at this year's Beijing Games. A new age limit for figure skaters at senior international events was passed Tuesday by the International Skating Union in a 110-16 vote that will raise the minimum age to 17 before the next Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. "This is a very important decision," ISU president Jan Dijkema said. "I would say a very historic decision."

The limit will be phased in with 15-year-olds continuing to be allowed to compete next season, a minimum age of 16 in the 2023-24 season, rising to 17 the

last before the Olympics.

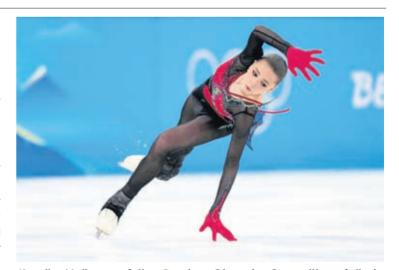
The ISU said the new rule was "for the sake of protecting the physical and mental health, and emotional well-being of the skaters."

It should disrupt the career of top Russian junior Sofia Akateva, who is 14. Her birthday in July falls days after the July 1 deadline to classify skaters' ages for the upcoming season, though for the 2026 Olympics she will be 18 and able to compete. The change was coming even before figure skating at the Beijing Olympics was dominated by the emotional stress put on the 15-year-old Valieva. She was the favorite to take individual gold, after helping the Russians win the team title, before her positive

doping test from December was belatedly revealed during the Olympics.

The teenager was allowed to train under intense scrutiny as a Court of Arbitration for Sport hearing was prepared that allowed her to compete pending the full investigation in Russia. That is still ongoing.

However, her main routine was filled with errors and she dropped to fourth place. She was then criticized rink-side by her coach, Eteri Tutberidze. The ISU drafted an age-limit proposal saying "burnout, disordered eating, and long-term consequences of injury" were a risk to young teenage skaters who are pushed to perform more quadruple jumps. The decision was criticized in Russia, where skaters are currently



Kamila Valieva, of the Russian Olympic Committee, falls in the women's free skate program during the figure skating competition at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, in Beijing.

military invasion of Ukraine. "I think it was done to more or less even out the competition, so that our Russian female skaters couldn't have the opportunity to win world championship, European, Olympic medals," Dmitri Soloviev, a

banned by the ISU from in- team event gold medalist ternational competitions for Russia at the 2014 Sochi because of the country's Olympics, told broadcaster Match TV. "But in my opinion Eteri Tutberidze will find a way to get our athletes into ideal condition at the age of 17 or 18," Soloviev said, "so that they can show their best results at international competitions at that age in particular."



Golfers put aside 'reprehensible' Saudi moves to join series

By ROB HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

ST. ALBANS, England (AP) —

The stars of the new Saudifunded golf league tried to fend off concerns on Tuesday about human rights abuses and signing up to accept hundreds of millions of dollars despite the risk of being banned from longstanding events.

After announcing he quit the PGA Tour to join the LIV Golf series, Dustin Johnson evaded questioning about the source of the \$25 million prize fund for each event flowing from Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund. The first LIV Golf Invitational is taking place outside London from Thursday.

Another former major winner — Graeme McDowell — was left at a news conference trying to publicly reconcile causing fractures in golf by signing for the rebel series that appears to be part of Saudi Arabia's attempt to reshape its image as a backer of lavish sports events rather than one associated with human rights abuses.

The Northern Irish golfer, who won the U.S. Open and Ryder Cup in 2010, did bring up the 2018 murder of Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul as a legitimate area of concern of joining a series



Graeme McDowell, of Northern Ireland, reacts after missing a putt on the 18th green during the second round of the PGA Zurich Classic golf tournament, Friday, April 22, 2022, at TPC Louisiana in Avondale, La.

Associated Press

he accepts is "incredibly polarizing" for the sport.

"Take the Khashoggi situation," he said. "We all agree that's reprehensible. Nobody is going to argue that fact."

U.S. intelligence services said they believe the killing of the U.S.-based Saudi journalist came at the orders of the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, who heads the Public Investment Fund. The prince denies wrongdoing.

The fund is providing the hundreds of millions of dol-

lars in sign-on fees and prize money that is enticing players away from the established tours and jeopardizing their participation in the majors and Ryder Cup.

Human rights groups describe Saudi Arabia's efforts as "sportswashing" its image.

McDowell tried to avoid discussing the specifics of the country he is effectively working for.

"I really feel like golf is a force of good in the world — I just try to be a great role model to kids," he said.

"We are not politicians. I know you guys hate that expression, but we are really not, unfortunately. We are professional golfers.

"If Saudi Arabia wanted to use the game of golf as a way for them to get to where they want to be and they have the resources to accelerate that experience, I think we are proud to help them on that journey using the game of golf and the abilities that we have to help grow the sport and take them to where they want to be."

How, though, McDowell was asked, is that journey helping women who are oppressed in Saudi Arabia, the LGBTQ individuals whose rights to live freely are criminalized, the migrant workers whose rights are violated, the victims of the Saudi-led bombing of Yemen, or the 81 men who were executed by the kingdom in March?

"I wish I had the ability to be able to have that conversation with you," McDowell said. "As golfers, if we tried to cure geopolitical situations in every country in the world that we play golf in, we wouldn't play a lot of golf. It's a really hard question to answer.

"We're just here to focus on the golf and kind of what it does globally for the role models that these guys are."

McDowell did most of the talking on Saudi rights issues, with two-time major winner Johnson responding earlier: "I would pretty much say the exact same thing. I'd agree with what Graeme said."

The series is being overseen by Greg Norman with 54-hole tournaments and a shotgun start that sees every group start at the same time on different holes. The winner gets \$4 million, while last place gets \$120,000.



Los Angeles Sparks coach Derek Fisher watches the team play the Minnesota Lynx during the fourth quarter of a WNBA basketball game Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Los Angeles (Ar) — The Los Angeles Sparks have fired head coach and general manager Derek Fisher

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The the team announced Tues-Los Angeles Sparks have day.

Fisher took over the team in 2019 and became the GM

Los Angeles Sparks fire coach and GM Derek Fisher

a year later. He finished his career with a 54-46 record as coach.

Assistant Fred Williams will take over as interim head coach.

"After a thorough evaluation of the state of our team, the Sparks and GM/ Head Coach Derek Fisher have agreed to part ways," managing partner Eric Holoman said. "On behalf of our ownership group, I want to thank Derek for his efforts and contributions to the Sparks franchise. We wish him the best moving forward. I have full confidence in Fred Williams to step into the role of interim head coach, bringing a wealth of experience leading WNBA teams."

The Sparks missed the playoffs last season for the first time since 2011 and bolstered their roster by adding All-Star Liz Cambage in the offseason. They had a difficult schedule to start the season with nine of their first 12 games on the road and are 5-7.

Fisher won five titles while playing with the Lakers and had served as coach of the Knicks before he took over as the Sparks coach. The Sparks won one playoff game in Fisher's tenure in Los Angeles.

"I want to thank the LA Sparks organization, ownership, staff, players, and fans for the opportunity they have afforded me over the last four years as a part of this historic franchise," Fisher said.

"Their support has allowed me to grow as both a coach and front office executive and I am proud of what we have accomplished."

"The Sparks and I have mutually agreed to part ways as I shift my focus back to pursuing other opportunities and private endeavors," Fisher added. "It has been an amazing ride and I wish the entire LA sparks organization great success moving forward."